

SUBSEA UK NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FROM SUBSEA UK

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JUNE 2011



GLOBAL EXPORTS

	Gate
19:35 Kuala Lumpur	On Time
19:55 Rio	On Time
20:00 Paris	On Time
20:10 Lagos	On Time
20:40 Alexandria	On Time
20:55 Singapore	On Time
21:25 Oslo	On Time
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22:00 Houston	On Time
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...and more

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New Members

Central Insurance Services Ltd, Ecosse Subsea Systems Ltd, Frazer-Nash Consultancy Ltd, ISIS Technical Services Limited, JDR Cable Systems, Kiltie Pipeline Technology Ltd, Litre Meter, Marketec, PhiBre Pty Ltd, Subsea Deployment Systems Ltd, TESS-JNW Ltd, Universal Engineering Ltd, Weston Compliance Services Ltd

Member List

Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group, Aberdeenshire Council, AC-CESS Co Uk, AGR Integrity UK, AGR Subsea Ltd, Aker Qserv, Aker Solutions, Allomax Associates Limited, Andrew Palmer & Associates, ANSYS UK Limited, Ashtead Technology, Atkins, ATR Group, Aubin Limited, Baker Hughes Process and Pipeline Services, Baule UK Limited, Bel Valves, BG Group, Bibby Offshore Limited, Bond Pearce LLP, BP Exploration Operating Company Limited, BPP-TECH, Bridge Energy UK, Bruck UK Limited, Buchan Technical Services Limited, C3 Global Limited, Caley Ocean Systems Limited, Cameron Limited, Castrol Offshore Ltd, Centrica Energy, Chevron Upstream Europe, C-MAR, Cognetas LLP, CorDex Instruments Company, Cosalt, Cranfield University, CSL, CTC Marine Projects, Cutting Underwater Technologies Ltd., Deepwater EU Ltd, Delmar North Sea Ltd, DOF Subsea UK, Dominion Gas, DUCO Ltd, Dunlop Oil & Marine Ltd, Dynamic Positioning Services (DPS), E.ON Ruhrgas North Sea UK Ltd, East of England Energy Group, EPC Offshore Limited, Escape Business Technologies, ESS Support Services Worldwide, Exova, Expro Group, EXSTO, Fathom Systems, First Subsea Ltd, Fisher Offshore, Flexlife Limited, Flowline Specialists Limited, Forum Energy Technologies, Framo Engineering UK Ltd, Fugro General Robotics Limited, Fugro ImpROV, Fugro Subsea Services Ltd, Furmanite International Limited, Genesis Oil and Gas Consultants, Global Energy Group, Global Marine Systems Limited, Granherne Limited, Hallin Marine (UK) Ltd, Helix Esg - Well Ops, Hydrasun Limited, Hydratight, IHC Engineering Business, Imenco, Imes Systems, Infield Systems Limited, Innospection Limited, Inspectahire Inst. Co. Limited, Integrated Subsea Services Limited, Inuklutun Europe Ltd, IPWL Limited, iXBlue Limited, J + S Ltd, J P Kenny Engineering, J. Ray McDermott, JDR Cable Systems, K.D. Marine Limited, Kongsberg Maritime Limited, L&N (Scotland) Limited, Liquevision, Marin Subsea Ltd, Marlin Engineering Limited, Master Flo Valve Co (UK) Limited, Matrix Composites & Engineering, MCS Kenny, MODUS, Molecular Products Ltd, MSI Kenny, National Hyperbaric Centre, National Oceanography Centre, National Subsea Research Institute Ltd, Nautronix, NCA - Norse Cutting & Abandonment Ltd, NCS Survey Limited, NETmc Marine Ltd, Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd, NGP UK Ltd, Noordhoek Offshore B.V, NSIG (Northern Scotland Industries Group), NSW Technology Ltd, Nylacast Ltd, Oceaneering International Services Ltd, Oceanlab, University of Aberdeen, ODS-Petrodata, Offshore Installation Services, Offspring International Limited, OMB Offshore Applications Limited, Online electronics, Optical Metrology Services Ltd, Pan-Ocean Engineering Limited, Paradigm Flow Solutions Ltd, PDL Solutions (Europe) Limited, Perry Slingsby Systems Limited, PhiBre Pty Ltd, Photosynergy, Pipe Coil Technology Ltd, Polar Media, Port Services Group, Project Development International Ltd, Proserv Offshore, Prospect, Quadrant EPP UK Ltd, Quest Offshore Resources Inc, RBG Limited, RiserTec, Robert Gordon University, Rotech Subsea Limited, Roxar Limited, RRC Controls Services Limited, Saab Seaeeye Limited, Saint-Gobain Isover, Saipem UK Limited, Sonsub Division, Schilling Robotics Ltd, Schlumberger Subsea Surveillance, Scottish Enterprise, Seal-Tite UK LLC, SECC, Seebyte Ltd, SgurrEnergy, Shell UK Ltd, Simmons & Co International Limited, SMD Ltd, Smit Subsea Europe BV, Society for Underwater Technology, Solstad Offshore (UK) Limited, Sonardyne International Limited (Aberdeen), Sonavision Limited, Sonomatic, Specialist Subsea Services, Speciality Welds Ltd, Strategic Resources European Consultants Ltd, Stronachs LLP, Sub-Atlantic, Subsea 7, Subsea Integrity Group (SIG), Subsea Supplies Limited, Subseption Ltd, Technip UK, Teijin Aramid BV, The Underwater Centre, Titanium Engineers Ltd, Total E&P UK plc, TPG (UK) Limited, Tracerco, Trelleborg Offshore, Tritech International Limited, UKPS/SUBCO, UnderSea Sense Ltd, Underwater Engineering Services Ltd, Univation, Universal Pegasus, University of Aberdeen, University of Strathclyde, UTEC Survey, Valeport Ltd, Vector International, VerdErg Connectors Limited, Vetco Gray UK Ltd, Viper Subsea Ltd, Visualsoft Limited, Weatherford Production Optimisation (UK) Ltd, Webtool, Welaptega Marine UK Ltd, Wellstream International Limited, WFS Energy & Environment, WGIM, William Hackett Chains Ltd, Wilton Engineering Services Ltd, Wood Group Kenny, Worldwide Business Portfolios Ltd, Xodus Group Limited

Subsea UK Appoints New Chief Executive



The industry body which represents the UK's subsea sector has appointed a new chief executive. Neil Gordon will take over the reins at Subsea UK at the beginning of July 2011.

Currently general manager of the National Hyperbaric Centre in Aberdeen, Mr Gordon has over 20 years' management and business development experience, combined with over 10 years' subsea experience.

During his time at the National Hyperbaric Centre he has successfully project-managed saturation diving operations and hyperbaric weld trials. Having helped develop the diving safety and subsea training and consultancy part of the business, he regularly lectures to subsea engineers and delivers training courses.

He has experience of working in India, Middle-East, Africa and Brazil and has worked with the Oil and Gas Producers diving operations sub-committee on client representative training and competency for subsea projects. He is also a member of the IMCA diving safety medical technical and training committee.

Following a business studies course at the former Aberdeen College of Commerce, Mr Gordon trained as a commercial diver and spent eight years carrying out numerous diving assignments in the UK and Norwegian waters involving new construction projects, pipeline surveys, welding and inspection with Oceanering and other companies.

Commenting on his appointment, Subsea UK chairman Bill Edgar said: "Neil brings a new dimension to Subsea UK. We are pleased to have secured someone who has direct subsea experience, firstly as a diver and latterly within the Hyperbaric Centre, but who also has diverse management experience outwith the subsea sector.

"We are confident that Neil will continue to build on Subsea UK's services to members and enhance the reputation of the sector at home and abroad."

Mr Gordon added: "I am honoured to be joining such a well-respected and influential industry organisation. Over the years, I have been impressed by its rapid growth in size and stature and have the highest respect for both my predecessors. My initial aim will be to build upon the successes achieved to date with a focus on delivering services that meet members' needs and promote the globalisation of the UK subsea industry.

"Subsea UK's recent work on safety and skills is of particular interest to me and I hope to be able to make a valuable contribution in these areas as well."

Hot News

Visit our website for all the latest hot news on everything subsea:
www.subseauk.com

Forthcoming Events in 2011

02 June 2011	Subsea Asia 2011 Conference Kuala Lumpur
16 June 2011	Market Update and Networking Lunch AECC, Aberdeen
21 June 2011	Subsea UK Networking Dinner Inverness
29 June 2011	Parliamentary Reception Members' Dining Room, House of Commons, London
29 June 2011	Parliamentary Reception Dinner Quaglino's, London
02 September 2011	Subsea UK Challenge Cup Inchmarlo
07 September 2011	Subsea UK's Offshore Europe Dinner The Marcliffe, Pitfodels

Please visit www.subseauk.com for details of forthcoming events.

First Ever Induction Framework for Subsea Launched to Radically Improve Safety

Subsea UK's safety forum has launched its first ever pan industry sector common induction framework to reduce accidents and improve safety performance through a greater understanding of the risks and what is required.

This is the first of a series of best practice initiatives that the industry body's Subsea Safety Leadership Forum will be rolling out to improve safety through industry-wide collaboration.

The common induction framework will ensure that everyone working offshore, onshore or on-board vessels in the subsea sector will receive a common induction process before beginning work. It has been developed by sharing best practice from the main contractors to ensure a common approach to inductions.

Chief executive of Subsea UK, Alistair Birnie, said: "This is a major step forward in the industry's collaborative approach to safety and is targeted at further improving performance across the sector. "I have been particularly impressed by the willingness to share information, the transparency in the process and the commitment of members to work together for the benefit of the industry and its employees."

"By coming together, they have identified the best of what is being done by individual organisations and combined this into a single induction framework that will be available to everyone working on a subsea project."

The subsea sector operates in one of the most mission-critical and challenging environments of any in the oil and gas industry. Recent statistics on subsea-related incidents reveal that a substantial number of reported incidents are related to sub-contractor personnel. The priority was therefore to introduce an effective way of making sure there was a common standard for inducting people into their worksite. This is not about creating new safety guidelines but about making sure existing guidelines are communicated clearly and implemented consistently across all contractors.

The induction framework is primarily targeted at new employees in the sector and those going into a marine environment for the first time



such as technicians from equipment manufacturing companies and those whose usual day job is desk-bound. However, every worker should have the same level of safety competence so the framework applies to everyone connected with offshore subsea operations.

"Many of the people involved in subsea operations are not as familiar with the offshore environment and will not have had the same inductions as people working for the major contractors. By providing this standard guidance, we can ensure that everyone will be briefed through a common induction as to what to expect when travelling to and from and installation or working on a vessel at sea," explained Mr Birnie.

Subsea UK's safety forum, established in 2010, brings together the leading players in the UK subsea sector to ensure that the UK is the safest place for those working in it from marine operators to subsea contractors and sub-contractors.

The forum has been sharing information and the lessons learnt from specific subsea instances and incidents. It provides leadership and direction on improvements which will be rolled out in a planned and co-ordinated way.

The new chairman of the forum is Stephen McNeil of Subsea 7, who replaces Ron Cookson of Technip.

The induction framework is free to use and can be accessed at www.subseauk.com. It will be maintained and updated by Subsea UK and a steering group of safety professionals from the main contractors.

Subsea UK to Award Annual Scholarships in Subsea Engineering

Subsea UK is to offer a series of scholarships to increase the number of highly qualified subsea engineers in the industry.

As a not-for-profit body, Subsea UK has already invested surplus back into industry, creating value for its members and the sector.

The scholarship programme is the latest in Subsea UK's initiatives, which will enable successful candidates to study towards a post-graduate MSc in subsea engineering.

Eligible candidates, who will be invited to apply before the 15th July every year, will be graduate engineers normally living in the UK and who are supported by a Subsea UK member company.

Subsea UK Chief Executive, Alistair Birnie, said: "We are delighted to be able to contribute to the industry by developing both young and mature engineers alike who will drive forward the next generation of subsea services and technology.

"As a self-sustaining membership organisation, we are entirely funded by our members, generating revenue through subscriptions and our various initiatives and services. The success in delivering these services has allowed us to continually build a surplus which we are investing in the industry's future."

The Subsea UK scholarship will cover up to 80% of the total annual cost up to a maximum of £7,500 for a full-time course and £3,500 for a part-time one. As well as fees, the costs covered will include course material, books, travel, subsistence and accommodation where appropriate.

The post-graduate masters scholarships are intended to be either a one-year full-time programme or suitable part-time programme. Students applying must have received an offer of a place at any UK university. The scholarship will be paid to the sponsoring company and the student must undertake to continue in the employment of that company for a minimum of two years after completion of the degree programme.

Interested companies or individuals should visit www.subseauk.com for more information.

Subsea UK Compiles Database of Industry Projects and Contracts

Subsea UK has launched a new service for members which provides valuable market intelligence on the global industry.

The body which represents the UK's subsea oil and gas sector has compiled a series of databases containing vital market information on subsea projects, contracts and new discoveries, which will be updated monthly and available from the members' section of the Subsea UK website.

The project database reveals that there are more than 300 major on-going or up-coming subsea projects globally, which will require more than 1,300 subsea trees, 110 manifolds, and 12,000 km of subsea umbilicals, risers, and flowlines. These include 70 projects in the UKCS, as well as those in major centres of activity in Norway, Brazil, West Africa,

Australia, Asia-Pacific, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Information provided in the projects database includes the name of the project, the operator, main contractor, equipment suppliers, along with the project status, where it is located, water depths, as well as the current number of trees, manifolds, umbilicals, flowlines and risers currently in use and required in the future to meet demand. The database also holds information on FPSOs and subsea vessels.

The contract database reveals that more than 350 major subsea contracts totalling over £6 billion have been awarded globally during the first four months of 2011. These include 23 EPIC, 33 manufacturing and 13 installation contracts. Information on contracts that have been awarded in the past three years

is now available in the contracts database including type of contract, companies involved, geographic region, and value - when available.

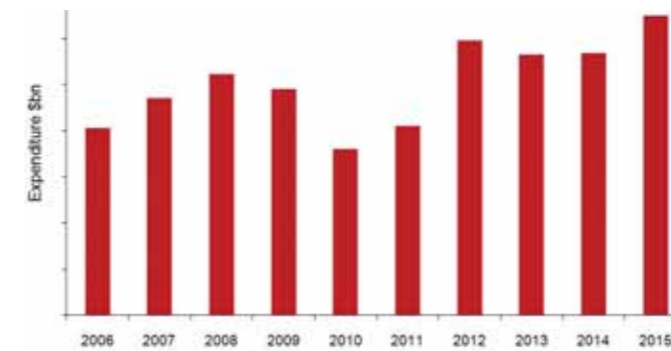
Subsea UK Chief Executive, Alistair Birnie, said: "This is the first time that all of this publicly-released information has been available through one source and will provide valuable key facts and figures for business development. It adds value to membership of Subsea UK as the up-to-date intelligence would be otherwise difficult, costly and time-consuming for companies to gather individually."

The last review of the subsea sector in 2010 revealed that the UK subsea sector comprised around 760 companies, supporting 50,000 jobs, generating £5.9 billion in revenues and exporting around 50% of those revenues.

Douglas-Westwood Forecasts \$139 Billion to be Spent on Subsea Hardware in the Next Five Years

Douglas-Westwood's first edition of its World Subsea Hardware Market Report forecasts 23% growth in capital expenditure compared to the last five years, with \$139 billion to be spent on subsea hardware over the 2011-2015 period. A proprietary model has been developed for this study in collaboration with the leading subsea hardware providers. Field-data, contract values and project-by-project scrutiny allows a 'bottom-up' consideration of the market for a highly-detailed forecast.

Renewed upward pressure on oil prices is already starting to be seen and this is expected to continue over the long-term as the limits of conventional oil



production are tested and supply struggles to meet demand. The economic downturn did undoubtedly hit some subsea projects, due to their relative complexity and the associated costs, with most operators using conservative hurdle rates to determine levels of investment. We have witnessed some moderation and reversal of the cost inflation that occurred in the years leading up to 2008.

The volume and value of subsea production and processing equipment installed is detailed for the period 2006-2010 and forecast 2011-2015. During the forecast period, export lines account for over half of all expenditure, dominated by Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle-East which have a number of large subsea pipeline projects planned. Production expenditure is concentrated in West Africa, Brazil and the US Gulf of Mexico due to strong deepwater sectors.

The astonishing technical capability that exists within the subsea sector today puts into perspective just how capital-intensive oil and gas extraction now is for upstream E&P players. The technology that is being deployed is unlocking reserves that would previously have been impossible to access, but at a price, and as a result the sector has become a very sizable opportunity for the oilfield service and equipment community.

Exova Develops New Capability for Subsea Materials

Exova, one of the world's leading testing and advisory businesses, has invested over £100,000 in its Oil and Gas division, expanding its range of services to include fracture mechanics testing for its international offshore clients.

Exova's Aberdeen laboratory has expanded the number of testing experts, recruiting four new additional employees, including the appointment of a metallurgist which enhances the failure investigation capability within the business.

The service offering within the laboratory has also expanded with the introduction of elevated tensile testing, crack tip open displacement testing (CTOD) and investment in a scanning electron microscope.

Jason Clark, Exova's general manager of Energy in Scotland and the North East, said: "Oil and Gas is one of the most significant markets for Exova, with laboratories in nearly every major industry centre around the world. This investment comes at a time when Exova is consolidating its position as one of the leading Oil and Gas testing organisations and enhances our quality testing services to our locally-based offshore clients."

The investment in the fracture mechanics service further advances the laboratory's already comprehensive welding capabilities. The introduction of the elevated tensile testing allows businesses to determine the materials characteristics when testing at temperatures above room temperature.

The addition of CTOD testing at a local level further compliments Exova's already extensive range of testing available, enhancing the business as leaders in materials analysis.



Exova Aberdeen also offers for the very first time scanning electron microscope testing, an essential tool for investigative failure and forensic analysis.

In addition to the new services, the UKAS accredited Aberdeen laboratory provides a range of corrosion, mechanical and metallurgical tests for metals and metal products as well as being home to a welding centre of excellence.

The welding centre offers an expansive range of services including welding engineering, support on welding processes, materials and mechanical testing, welder testing and third party certification.

Exova's Edinburgh laboratory supports the Aberdeen facility to serve the Oil and Gas industry, with tests for material and welding procedure qualification.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS Where Subsea People Do Business

Oil and Gas • Defence • Wave and Tidal • Offshore Wind • Ocean Science



Subsea Asia 2011 Conference
Kuala Lumpur, 02 June 2011

Parliamentary Reception
London, 29 June 2011

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Overcoming Oversupply in the ROVSV and DSV Market

It is well known that there is oversupply in the diving support vessel (DSV) and ROV support vessel (ROVSV) markets. This is bad from the contractor's point of view as it influences utilisation and, in turn, day rates are negatively affected.

The most obvious solution to this problem for contractors would be for some of the older tonnage to be scrapped, laid up or moved out of the market. But is this really likely to happen?

There were 57 DSVs and 91 ROVSVs operating in the market at the start of 2007. Since then the supply for DSVs has increased by 48% to 83 vessels, while the ROVSV fleet has seen a more dramatic increase of 76% to 160 vessels during the same period. While annual demand has also grown, it has been at a much slower rate. It increased 21% for DSVs and 18% for ROVSVs between 2007 and 2010.

The graph below, taken from ODS-Petrodata's ConstructionVesselBase, highlights the average age of the fleet currently operating in the subsea market.

In the DSV market there are 30 vessels that are over 26 years old. Of these, 10 are now over 30 and the oldest is 44.

When a vessel is built it is generally constructed to last 30 years before heavy investment is required to keep it in class. While the market is strong, contractors will feel it is worth absorbing these costs to reap the rewards of the market. But if utilisation and day rates start to drop, then vessel owners may have to rethink their strategies.

The ROVSV fleet is much younger than its DSV equivalent, with around 75% of the vessels 10 years old or younger. As the oil and gas industry moves into deeper and harsher environments, newer vessels will be increasingly utilised, especially with the heightened safety and

environmental expectations that have arisen following the 2010 Macondo disaster in the US Gulf of Mexico.

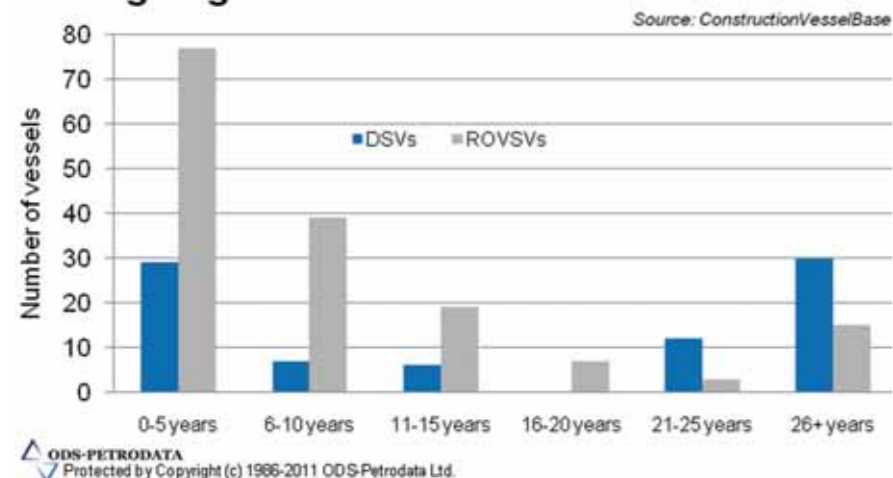
Tighter vessel age restrictions may be exercised in certain countries or by certain operators. This is already happening in some regions, including Indonesia, Australia, the Middle-East and the North Sea. At the moment, the market is tilted in favour of the operators due to the amount of available tonnage. But restricting the maximum age of vessels in certain regions would cause a reduction in the supply, resulting in day rates starting to climb.

Demand is due to increase year-on-year in the shallow and benign market, but it is the deep and harsh market that will be seeing the most dramatic increases in demand, driven in particular by Australia and Brazil. Oversupply in the fleet is obvious at the moment, but as the industry moves into ever harsher environments, it will likely require more newbuild vessels that are capable of working in these environments year-round. This is especially likely if Arctic projects enter the construction phase.

So will the older vessels be scrapped? The short answer is, in time, yes. But as long as owners keep their vessels well maintained, they can continue to be utilised, especially in shallow and benign regions. A turning point is likely to come when operators impose restrictions on the age and/or capabilities of the vessels they utilise.

Despite only a few vessels having been laid up or retired in the subsea market to date, it is likely that many more will follow suit in the years to come.

Average age of fleet



Vector Technology Groups' OPTIMA Subsea ROV Connector Selected for Capping Stack Emergency Response System

In Q1 2011 VTG delivered several size 5 OPTIMA Subsea ROV connectors to Transetter Engineering to integrate into their prestigious capping stack emergency response system in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). The rating of the system is 15,000 psi and is capable of processing over 60,000 of barrels a day.

VTG Subsea Business Managing Director Chris Lee explains: "Having been called upon by BP last July to supply OPTIMA connectors to the emergency response system deployed on the Macondo incident we were delighted when our partner in the GOM TEI requested we support this prestigious opportunity. The readiness of this system has been critical in allowing the commencement of drilling operations in the GOM and we are honoured to play our part."

Roxar Launches Breakthrough Well Intervention Tool

Roxar Flow Measurement Ltd, the Aberdeen-based arm of Norwegian company Roxar, has launched a new wireless product that provides the offshore subsea market with improved well integrity monitoring and significant cost savings.

The Roxar Downhole Wireless PT Sensor System – Annulus B, measures previously inaccessible annular pressure and temperature behind the B casing in subsea production or injection wells.

The technology can save operators millions of pounds through verifying a well's barrier integrity without having to shut down for maintenance.

Its application also provides early warning of production flow problems allowing operators to detect variations in pressure behind the casing. If left undetected, high pressure can result in a shallow gas blow out. The device reduces safety and environmental risks associated with well interventions as a result.

Roxar's development of the technology has already gained industry wide interest and the company introduced the technology at the OTC technical conference.

Roxar will bring its Downhole Wireless PT Sensor System – Annulus B, to the UK North Sea market this year. It can be fitted to current subsea template/



Roxar's new technology hailed as breakthrough for the offshore sector

control system designs without modifications, and offers operators a long-term solution to loss in casing integrity often caused by poor or deteriorating cement sealing or casing collapse.

Svenn Haugen, regional manager Europe & North Africa of Roxar Flow Measurement, said: "This new wireless downhole instrument is a breakthrough in protecting subsea well integrity, as it tracks pressure in areas that were previously off limits for oil and gas operators."

"This is a tremendous improvement for the industry and we

are anticipating massive potential for new business in the UK offshore sector and worldwide, given the ability of the technology to operate in challenging oilfield environments."

Mr Haugen continues: "The Roxar Downhole Wireless PT Sensor System – Annulus B, monitors vital data from the annulus B online and in real-time with absolute certainty of the results. The power to the device is continuously transmitted wirelessly, rather than by battery, and we can therefore guarantee that it will operate for a minimum of 20 years."

GOSL Takes Delivery of Sub-Atlantic Mohawk Integrated with SeeTrack CoPilot



SeeByte, the global leader in creating smart software technology for unmanned systems, has successfully integrated and delivered SeeTrack CoPilot with the Sub-Atlantic Mohawk to Geodetic Offshore Services Limited (GOSL).

GOSL recently purchased the Mohawk Inspection Class ROV to offer offshore pipeline surveys, inspection surveys and tooling capabilities in order to support

the growing needs of their clients. Realising the benefits of the solutions offered by SeeByte's SeeTrack CoPilot software, GOSL have purchased a SeeTrack licence to accompany the Mohawk. The system was demonstrated and accepted at the Sub-Atlantic test tank in Blackburn, Aberdeenshire.

"It was great to have GOSL witness their new SeeTrack CoPilot software in action with their Mohawk ROV," commented Ioseba, Sales Manager at SeeByte. "SeeTrack CoPilot offers a range of benefits for ROV service providers, the intuitive interface makes piloting the ROV a simple point-and-click task. This means that the performance and data gathered during subsea inspections is much improved."

Having never piloted an ROV prior to this demo, Emanuel Ekpeyong CEO of GOSL, was given the opportunity to discover for

himself the advantages in using SeeTrack software. "I was very pleased to see for myself how easy it was to control the ROV using SeeTrack," commented Ekpeyong. "The concentration and skill required to manoeuvre the vehicle shows what a difficult task pilots are faced with, and by simply adding SeeTrack CoPilot, the mission becomes a much simpler and efficient act. I am looking forward to providing this capability to my pilots and also improving the standard of service available to oil companies."

"This has been an interesting project and we have worked hard to ensure that GOSL are satisfied with their system," said John Ferguson from Sub-Atlantic. "I am certain that the Mohawk is going to be of great value to GOSL and their customers."

SeeTrack CoPilot software can now be integrated to all Sub-Atlantic ROVs.

Tritech's Latest Version of Seanet Pro Now Released

Winner of the Subsea UK Innovation & Technology Award, Tritech International, is pleased to announce the latest release of its survey data acquisition, display and logging software package.

Seanet Pro, version 2, now offers users the ability for remote networkability; allowing subsea data to be streamed between several PCs connected to the same Local Area Network on the surface. Building on existing capability to network multiple subsea sensors, the package has been updated in line with Tritech's existing and imminent new product ranges, including SeaKing Hammerhead DST sonar and the Gemini multibeam range. The system also provides users with the ability to display a multitude of Tritech sensors and third party data through SeaNet Pro at any one time.

With the new release, users of Seanet Pro can now create their own windowed layout by selecting their Tritech products and adjusting how they are displayed on screen; highlighting Seanet

Pro's straightforward 'plug & play' functionality.

Seanet Pro is accurate and user-friendly, allowing subsea data to be captured, processed and translated with ease. The advancement of Seanet Pro is driven by the skills of Tritech's software development team.

Working behind the scenes to capture the very best customer solution for acquisition, control visualisation and data logging, the Seanet Pro software development team comprises of Kevin Matson (Software Manager), Christophe Auger & Matt Chamberlain (Software Engineers), alongside three new recruits; Pauline Jepp, Paul McMaster and Edward Thurman.

Jesse Rodocker from SeaBotix Inc. comments on his experience of the latest version of Seanet Pro: "Tritech has always provided an impressive integrated solution to sensor data that our clients find great value in. With so many of our clients using sonar, tracking and video the ability to work in one software package means reduced training, synchronised data



Seanet Pro windowed layout showing Gemini 720i sonar image of a sunken barrel

and a common interface. Seanet Pro version 2 takes everything to a new level with the movable windows, wizards and output functions; it complements Tritech's impressive line of sensors."

In addition, all new product ranges can be connected and operated with existing Tritech products all from a single Surface Control Unit, with simultaneous control and display of all data through the Seanet Pro graphical user interface.

Caley Ocean Systems Delivers New 400-tonne Mobile Turntable to Mooring Systems



Offshore handling equipment specialist, Caley Ocean Systems Ltd, has designed and built what is believed to be the most adaptable offshore, mobile turntable of its kind in the UK, for spooling equipment hire company Mooring Systems Ltd in Aberdeen. Capable of handling a wide range of flexible products including cables, umbilicals, dynamic risers and hoses, the 400 tonne modular turntable spooler can be readily configured in either 'reel' or 'basket' modes; and is both sea and road transportable.

Built to the latest Lloyds Register rules for lifting appliances in a marine environment, the Caley turntable is capable of delivering almost 20km (12 miles) of 100mm cable in one batch. The turntable's carousel's dedicated spooling tower and large drum diameter ensure maximum

product protection and highly accurate product spooling.

Designed from the outset for rapid deployment from any port in the UK at short notice, the turntable is fully modularised for transport by road and standard 40 foot flat rack at sea. Together with dedicated deck beams, the spooler has its own lifting gear allowing a single lift of the fully assembled system. Moreover, the combination of fully integrated hydraulic power unit (HPU), redundant drives and integral dual redundant braking system, all rated IP56, suitable for a marine environment, significantly reduce mobilisation times and ensure safe handling of overhung loads.

The turntable has been transported to Mooring Systems' warehouse and quayside facility at Montrose on the east coast of Scotland, joining another 75 tonne Caley Ocean Systems modular reel delivered earlier this year.

Mooring Systems general manager Douglas Davidson said: "The new turntable spooler has filled a gap in the market for a mobile, modular and - most importantly - transportable system that has particular applications for the burgeoning renewables market. We expect that 2012 will see a massive surge in the number of projects being commissioned and we have already experienced increased interest in our fleet of spoolers.

"The new spooler fills the space between conventional reels, which carry smaller payloads and the 1,000t-plus turntables and carousels that are less adaptable and take longer to deploy. There is nothing quite like this in the UK rental market at present."

SMD Receives Prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise



Winner of the Subsea UK's Company of the Year Award, SMD, has been honoured with the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in the innovation category for the design and manufacturer of Work Class Remotely Operated Vehicles (WROVS).

The Wallsend-based company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of remote invention equipment, which operates in hazardous environments across the globe.

Each year, the Queen's Award is presented by the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to enterprises and organisations in recognition of outstanding achievement in the categories of International Trade, Innovation, and Sustainable Development. The Queen personally approves the recommendations of the Prime Minister.

Following the restructuring of its operations into five business streams – ROVS, Trenching, Renewables, Nuclear and Mining – the company has experienced strong growth. Turnover for the period 2009-10 increased by almost 50% to £61 million and the company is targeting another considerable rise in turnover by the end of 2011.

In 2010 SMD won the industry's largest ever single work class ROV order for 20 vehicles from Subsea 7, as well as the manufacture of the world's largest free stream tidal

turbine for Atlantis Resources Corporation. Engineering design work also ramped up on the development of world-first deepwater mining equipment for Nautilus Minerals Inc.

SMD's most recent trenching ROV model, the Q-Trencher, has been utilised by operators in China and Japan, where it has been involved in subsea communications cable repair following the recent earthquake and tsunami.

In addition to its riverside head office and manufacturing facility in Wallsend, and offices in Malton, North Yorkshire, Singapore, Houston, and Macae in Brazil, SMD has expanded its presence in the North East in the past 12 months.

SMD recently added a dedicated design office at the Cobalt Business Park and an additional production facility at the Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate, which will become an ROV Centre of Excellence.

This expansion, to meet the growing contract wins secured by SMD, has enabled the business to more than double its workforce from 120 to almost 300. Further recruitment is underway for an additional 30 positions for its North East and Yorkshire operations.



Andrew Hodgson, Chief Executive of SMD, said: "We have led the subsea ROV market for a number of years in terms of design and innovation and the Queen's Award is a marvellous acknowledgement of our achievements. Through the creation of the five business streams and the emergence of new energy markets such as renewables and new nuclear, we have further developed our product range to meet the challenges of these sectors and increase our presence in global markets.

"This award is testament to the creative skills and technical expertise of our engineers in our Research & Development and Production units supported by an outstanding team of people who continue to excel in their work for the company."

VisualSoft Showcase New Software

The Ocean Business exhibition, held at the National Oceanographic Centre, was the ideal platform for Subsea Services business VisualSoft to showcase VisualWorks 9, a major upgrade to the Pipeline and Structural Inspection Survey Suite that incorporates new 3D inspection tools and industry leading multi-beam scan cleaning tools.

The VisualSoft team were delighted by the level of interest and support received from visitors to the stand and from delegates who attended the demonstration and training sessions covering 3D structural inspection management and the integration of inspection tools with AutoChart and GIS.

Giving feedback on these unique inspection workscope planning and tracking tools now being used in the field, independent Data Processing Specialist, Phil Reed said: "The novel way of generating and previewing the inspection workscope visually means ROV pilots and the rest of the inspection team can get a better understanding of the job and can identify potential problem areas before doing the survey for real. Also, the built-in tracking makes it much easier to see at a glance what has and has not been inspected, which is great for handovers. I particularly like being able to load captured video from the 3D structural viewer and directly relate it to events because it makes anomaly review and correction much more intuitive and quicker to do."



OMS Adds More Qualified Weld Inspectors to its Ranks

Pipe measurement specialist Optical Metrology Services (OMS) Ltd has further expanded its capability to offer comprehensive weld inspection services to its clients. The company has added a further two full time CSWIP-qualified weld inspectors to the team.

CSWIP is an internationally recognised mark of competence for people engaged in welding and/or inspection related jobs in manufacturing, constructing, operating or repairing high integrity welded structures, plant or components.

As well as qualified weld inspectors, OMS offers advanced video and laser-based measurement tools to enable visual inspection and measurement of weld features in difficult to access structures such as pipeline end terminations (PLETs), manifolds, and critical oil & gas pipeline sections. OMS has recently completed an extensive weld inspection scope on the BP Galapagos project.

Richard Gooch, Director of Technology at OMS Ltd commented: "Having more qualified weld inspectors on our team means that in addition to our video and laser-based pipe measurement services, we can support clients by assessing the significance of any weld defects that we discover using these tools. We can then make recommendations as to whether these weld defects should be accepted or rejected against the specification."

Wilton Group Expands into Dundee

Wilton Group has opened a new fabrication facility at Dundee port in support of the upgrading, maintenance and refurbishment of Drilling Rigs, FPSO and Offshore Construction Vessels.

The Wilton Group through its subsidiary PD&MS Energy provides specialist engineering services for the refurbishment and upgrade of oil rigs berthed at the port.

Alex MacKay, Head of PD&MS Energy's Rig Refurbishment business unit, commented "We welcome the investment that the Wilton Group are making in Dundee, it will increase our presence in the city and help support the needs of the Drilling companies." Alex continued "Dundee is a great location for our business; the port facilities and the deepwater access to the quayside are of course very important, but the Dundee location is so much more accessible to Aberdeen based clients than competing sites elsewhere.

Group Business Development Director Des Hatfield added: "The Wilton Group's core business is based around large scale fabrications for the Oil and Gas and Renewable industries. We see this investment in Dundee as positioning the group for further opportunities, especially in the offshore subsea and construction, markets, giving us fabrication and berthing facilities covering both the Southern and Northern sectors. We expect to make further investments



in the area to realise our growth objectives; whether this is through further acquisitions or organic growth has yet to be determined."

The Wilton Group expects that the Dundee facility will employ upwards of 50 people at the site, growing towards 100 when blasting and painting capabilities are added later in the year.

The Wilton Group acquired the design engineers PD&MS Energy in 2008. PD&MS operate from multiple offices in Aberdeen, Great Yarmouth, and Port Clarence. PD&MS focus on the engineering of Brownfield projects, rig upgrades and refurbishment, asset life extension and subsea development engineering.

PD&MS Energy employs some 250 people across its business units.

Ashtead Technology Invests \$2.25m in New Rental Equipment



Ashtead Technology announces investments totalling \$2.25 million, in new high technology rental equipment from leading manufacturers including R2Sonic, Reson, Tritech, Ixsea and Sonardyne. Ashtead Technology strive to remain at the forefront of the latest technology, meeting clients' requirements for the latest

innovations for use in the harshest of environments.

Included in the \$2.25 million order are R2Sonic Multibeam Echosounders, Ixsea GAPS and PHINS Positioning and Navigation Systems, Tritech Gemini 300m Imaging Sonars, Sonardyne Ranger Pro2 USBL Positioning Systems, Reson 7125 Multibeam Sonars and Hydro-Lek pan and tilt camera booms.

This latest significant investment is indicative of Ashtead Technology's global strategy to provide the world's leading fleet of subsea equipment with the highest levels of customer service. Further to this investment, Ashtead Technology have recently expanded into the Middle-East and Australasia regions and opened new Calibration facilities in Singapore and Aberdeen and shortly in Houston. In

addition, Ashtead Technology have a planned Capital Expenditure budget in excess of \$6 million in the next 12 months.

Commenting on the substantial investment, Mark Derry, Ashtead Technology Offshore Managing Director said: "We are starting to see the market pick up and in order to support our subsea clients, we endeavour to continue to provide them with one of the world's largest and newest fleets of subsea rental equipment. This \$2.25 million order plus the further \$6 million planned investments will provide our clients with the latest positioning, navigation and imaging technology available in the market, available when and where they require it, fully calibrated and backed by 24 hour technical support for complete peace of mind."



NCS Survey to Take Delivery of Gavia AUV with New Integrated Sub-Bottom Profiler System

Teledyne Gavia are to deliver one of the first SBP modules, and the first complete Gavia system to be delivered with a full survey suite of SBP, SSS and Swath Bathymetry, as a part of NCS Survey's 3rd Gavia vehicle. This makes NCS Survey the largest commercial user of Gavia vehicles with three systems being operational after delivery of this vehicle.

NCS Survey's commitment to the Gavia range of AUVs comes on the back of a number of successful contracts for seven different Oil & Gas clients, including pipeline inspections, seabed scour monitoring, under rig surveys, and site and route surveys.

In just two years of operations NCS Survey has carried out projects with their AUVs in Argentina, Azerbaijan, The Netherlands, UK & USA demonstrating how portable the systems are.

Andy Gray, NCS Survey's Chief Executive, commented: "Our clients and our field staff are all tremendously impressed with the extremely high quality data and the speed with which systems can be mobilised onto a vessel. In many cases we are ready to go an hour after arriving on the vessel. This provides huge cost savings at the same time as improving the standards of the survey results.

"We are excited by the continued success of NCS Survey and the growth of their Gavia fleet of AUVs. The new sub-bottom profile module will give them the efficiency of full survey capabilities in a man-portable vehicle," said Teledyne Benthos General Manager, Thomas Altshuler.

NCS Survey has pioneered the use of portable/low logistics AUVs in the offshore Oil & Gas sector and is now recognised as a global leader in this field. The company was formed in 2005 and has grown from eight employees to over 60 in less than five years. Its turnover has doubled in the last year to over £8m. In the five years since start-up NCS Survey has performed over 600 Projects in 35 different countries.

Stuart Bell Joins Penspen as General Manager of its Aberdeen Office

The Penspen Group is pleased to announce the appointment of Stuart Bell as General Manager of its Aberdeen Office, with responsibility for all of Penspen's business in Aberdeen, including the subsea and pipelines work executed under the Andrew Palmer & Associates brand. Stuart joins Penspen from KW where he held a range of Senior Management Positions including General Manager of their Aberdeen office.

Stuart, who will report directly to Penspen's Director of Offshore, Ernie Lamza, has previously held a range of engineering and project management positions with Subsea 7 and Technip and others having gained his extensive subsea and pipelines experience over the last 30 years in the UK, USA and Australia.

Ernie Lamza, Director of Offshore, said: "I have no doubt that Stuart will add valuable knowledge and experience to Penspen's Aberdeen office as well as to its Offshore Stream as a whole. I look forward to working with him to build on our many recent successes including our recent winning of Subsea UK's Business Award for Global Exports."

Stuart Bell said: "Penspen has earned an excellent reputation in the subsea and offshore pipelines sector. I am delighted to be working with the very strong team in Aberdeen and look forward to building on its capabilities to grow the business and our global reputation."



Stuart Bell - New General Manager, Penspen Group

RBG Reaches Excellent Safety Performance



Winners of the inaugural Subsea UK Safety Award, RBG, the leading provider of inspect, assess and repair (IAR) services to the global energy industry, have announced that the company's REACH safety initiative was a major factor in reducing its lost time incident frequency rate (LTIFR) by 38.5% globally and 51% in the UKCS in 2010.

REACH was launched in December 2009 with the aim of creating a stronger, safer culture throughout RBG by encouraging all employees to 'reach' higher safety standards. Activities such as internal campaigns, monthly briefing papers and a safety awards scheme have all contributed to a major behavioural shift across the company's operations and a marked commitment to proactive safety engagement.

Going forward, RBG's safety statistics and recording methods will be aligned to the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP), enabling the company to benchmark its performance against industry standards rather than its previous year's statistics.

RBG's REACH initiative won the 2010 Subsea UK Safety Leadership Award and the company will hold its own annual REACH safety awards in April 2011. The awards, a first for RBG, will recognise the company's employees who demonstrate outstanding safety performance and continual best safety practice.

While the first year of REACH focused on safety, in 2011 the initiative will be expanded to include RBG's full HSEQ remit. A bespoke framework will be applied to each part of the remit to bring real benefits to the health and wellbeing of RBG's employees, reduce the company's

impact on the environment and enhance the quality service offering it delivers.

Dave Workman, RBG's CEO, said: "During its short existence, it's clear that REACH has been a great success. However, we realise there is still some way to go in delivering world-class safety performance across our all our key regions. The North Sea has been a leader in offshore safety for many years now but I am very pleased with the progress we are making to ensure the safety standards of our international locations reach the same exceptional level.

"Extending REACH to encompass all areas of HSEQ activity will bring significant benefits to our employees and customers, and I am confident we can repeat the success achieved from our safety campaign."

Mike Mann, RBG's Group HSEQ director, said: "We are pleased with the lost time incident frequency reduction and it could not have been achieved without our employees' dedication to safety. The REACH ethos has been engrained in our day-to-day working lives and the success achieved so far bodes well for the future. However, we are not complacent and understand that we need to continually improve to achieve our goal of zero injuries.

"We recognise that to continue to be seen as both a leading contractor and employer of choice we need to maintain our focus on enhancing activity across all our HSEQ operations. I am sure that our employees will show the same commitment to making the extended REACH remit a success in 2011 and going forward."

Aberdeen Firm Provides the Perfect Model for Offshore Safety



Bruce Adam - Owner of Marketec

An Aberdeen company has produced a training tool that could help personnel in offshore companies gain a better understanding of pressure control systems like those used on the Deepwater Horizon rig.

Marketec, which is being helped by Business Gateway, Aberdeen City & Shire, has developed the WISE-Board system, a powerful tool for illustrating complex technical processes on oil and gas installations.

Machined from rigid plastic laminate and used in conjunction with a magnetic whiteboard, WISE-Board components can be used to create

a 'working model' of a system or equipment assembly.

Bruce Adam, owner, Marketec, said: "I was watching television last year and saw Admiral Thad Allen, who was in charge of the Gulf clean-up operation, use a complicated diagram on a whiteboard to announce how they were attempting to contain the well. I knew we could produce a visualisation system that would make the process and equipment much easier to understand because seeing – and understanding – the consequences of changing conditions are key to successful training and operation of complex or hazardous systems. That saw the birth of the systems we now provide for subsea pressure control equipment."

Alongside the WISE-Board range of products, which were launched last year, Marketec design and manufacture scaled system models for oil and gas companies including BP, Petrowell and Hunting Energy Services which are used in North America, the Middle-East, Norway, France and Russia.

The company's range of robust plastic models, which cost between £500 and £15,000, provide an invaluable training and operations planning aid that can help offshore

operators avoid confusion or misunderstanding – a condition that the National Commission into the Deepwater Horizon explosion says was a key factor in the oil spill incident which made headlines last year.

Adam said: "In the oil and gas industry, like all industries, there are fewer opportunities for on-the-job learning. People are getting less and less exposure to the systems they will be working on. This should be countered with tools to enable the training experience to be more efficient. It's not unusual for offshore operations to involve multiple companies, participating on different stages of the process. Having a training or awareness tool that helps them visualise the extent and configuration of the system can help them figure out how their actions may affect the whole system.

"Our products offer a cost effective visualisation aid that provide operators with the opportunity to test hypothetical situations and gain experience at a desk top level. Engineers can test out a range of operational scenarios and see the full system reaction in the safety of a training room before attempting the work on a rig."

Sweden Adopts the WeldCraft-Pro™ Underwater Welding Programme

The Gothenburg Fire and Rescue's commercial diving school completed its first WeldCraft-Pro™ underwater welding course earlier this year. The class which was full had 17 candidates attending, with over 25 weldments produced for formal



examination by Zurich Insurance. The average pass mark awarded was 'Distinction' (required over 87%).

The programme, which is accredited by EAL (part of SEMTA) is the UK's only fully approved underwater welder training programme. Mr Dan Hedberg, the head of the diving school, says: "This training programme is the best programme of training I have seen for commercial divers. The material is excellent and easy to follow."

The programme, which is available under licence, is monitored and audited by Speciality Welds' senior welding surveyor, Mr. David Keats, and follows the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and The European Welding Federation (EWF) guidelines 570-1 for fillet welder-plate. The course, which is delivered as a 'self-teach' programme by the training school itself, has all teaching materials supplied by Speciality Welds Ltd, but follows strict audit and control procedures laid down by Speciality Welds Ltd, and is subject to full audit by EAL and Zurich Insurance each year. Welding qualifications are issued in accordance with BSEN ISO 15618-1: 2002.



Client Representative students in Brazil

NHC Delivers First Training Courses in Brazil

The National Hyperbaric Centre (NHC) of Aberdeen recently delivered its first training courses in Brazil. The NHC signed an agreement with the Divers University of Brazil to provide a range of Subsea training course under an International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) approved scheme.

The Divers University is based in Santos, the largest port in Latin America, has been working with Neil Gordon (General Manager) and Keith MacMillan (Diving Safety Specialist) of the NHC over the last few months to provide subsea training courses in Portuguese.

Earlier this year the first two courses were delivered, OGP Client Representative and Air Diving Supervisor, which were well attended with representatives for Sistec, Fugro, Deep Blue, Continental and Subsea 7.

RBG Supports Global Growth Plans With University Link-Up

RBG, the leading provider of Inspect, Assess and Repair (IAR) services to the global energy industry, has partnered with Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK to launch a bespoke learning programme for its senior management team as the company prepares for major growth in 2011 and beyond.

The Business Leadership Challenge development course comprises a mixture of knowledge and competency and aims to enhance strategic and operational decision making. The learning content focuses on four key performance areas: commercial and financial capability; influencing and negotiation; leadership and performance management.

The course content was devised by RBG CEO, Dave Workman, RBG HR director, John McLeish and senior academic staff at the University's Aberdeen Business School to enhance specific areas of the senior management team skill-set. Around 100 RBG managers and directors will complete the staggered courses over a 12 month period.

Delegates will undertake an in-depth 12 week online knowledge based course, during which they will also compete in the first one-day workshop where teams of employees will test their knowledge and capabilities in different business scenarios. The Business Leadership Challenge is held two weeks later and gives participants

the opportunity to run their own virtual multi-million pound business. Teams will compete over a two-day workshop and course facilitators will control the virtual business environment so that each group has to respond to realistic political, legal and economic challenges.

RBG CEO, Dave Workman, said: "We are very pleased to be launching the Business Leadership Challenge course with Robert Gordon University. RBG is going through a period of continued growth and the course will equip our senior managers with the commercial skills required to realise our international development plans. I am confident the course will bring real and tangible benefits to our global business and customers.

"The course has been designed to support our business strategy, vision and mission and presents an ideal opportunity to share knowledge, skills and experience across the wider management team."

Rita Marcella, Dean of Robert Gordon University's Aberdeen Business School, said: "We are pleased to be working with RBG on this innovative development programme. The Business Leadership Challenge reinforces the commercial and management skills required to successfully run a multi-million pound business. This programme provides the framework, tools and perspectives that will support RBG's senior managers in fulfilling their ultimate potential."

Diverse Company Looking to the Forefront

The National Hyperbaric Centre (NHC) of Aberdeen has recently added several new training courses to its portfolio as well as price reductions on some of its current IMCA approved courses.

The NHC understands that in the current economical climate 'every penny counts', so they have taken it upon themselves to help out by significantly reducing the costs of Diver Medic Technician, Diver Medic Refresher, IMCA Air Diving Supervisor and IMCA Bell Diving Supervisor courses.

The NHC have also introduced four new courses, Dive System Auditor, Leadership Training, Introduction to Subsea Systems and Subsea Control Operations, to its portfolio. The courses have been introduced to aid newcomers to the subsea industry and help current professionals keep up-to-date with their knowledge and learning.

Keith McMillan Diving Supervisor of the NHC said; "The price reduction is a move we felt was needed to aid newcomers to the industry to give



Students of the National Hyperbaric Centre's first Dive System Auditor course

them that helping hand to start in an exciting career in the subsea industry. The introduction of the new courses has been a project we have been working on for several months which has been brought about by request for from the industry worldwide. The NHC sees itself as a diverse company

always looking to be at the forefront of the Subsea Industry and always welcome feedback from companies and individuals on how we can best aid them in the future."

Full details of cost reductions and new course can be found on the NHC website.

The Hydrasun Cycle Challenge Team Raise Over £11k for Local Charity

Several months after starting the search for an elite band of athletes with a thirst for a challenge, Hydrasun assembled a team of cyclists eager to participate in the Hydrasun Cycle Challenge.

Cycling around 260 miles over 4 days from Durness in the far

north of Scotland to Aberdeen, the cyclists set their sites on raising money for local charity Blue Horizon. Blue Horizon is a voluntary youth charity working to build young peoples' confidence, expand horizons and realise life potential in the neighbourhoods of Kincorth and

Cove, South Aberdeen.

Successfully raising over £11k Bob Drummond, Hydrasun CEO commented: "As one of the team it has given me a real sense of personal achievement not only to have completed the course but also to have been involved in raising money for Blue Horizon; an extremely worthwhile and valued charity organisation which operates in neighbourhoods close to our new head quarters. We would like to thank everyone who made a donation and supported our challenge."

A number of Blue Horizon staff and volunteers, accompanied by the Street Outreach double decker bus, welcomed the cyclists back to Hydrasun HQ. The charity's Director, Eddie McKenna thanked the Hydrasun team, "On behalf of Blue Horizon I would like to thank the Hydrasun Cycle Challenge Team for their outstanding achievement in completing the challenge and for the money raised. We would also like to thank Hydrasun for their partnership - a national company, working locally to support the needs of local young people."



The Hydrasun Cycle Challenge team

Well Ops UK Recovers Ditched Jet

The flexibility of the Helix Well Ops UK (Well Ops) vessel the Well Enhancer was illustrated recently when she undertook one of her most unusual jobs. The state-of-the-art mono-hull vessel was contracted by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to recover the wreckage of a ditched Tornado jet.

The aircraft - based at RAF Lossiemouth - suffered an engine problem while on a training mission in February and crashed into the sea off the west coast of Scotland. The pilot and navigator managed to eject to safety.

Well Ops, a subsidiary of Helix Energy Solutions Group, was called in after the MoD had located the aircraft's fuselage in 110 metres of water, 20 miles north-west of Loch Ewe, Wester Ross. The objective of the work was to recover as much of the Tornado's wreckage as possible to help facilitate an investigation by the MoD accident investigation unit.

The company deployed its specialist subsea well intervention and diving vessel the Well Enhancer to carry out ROV and diver surveys to determine the condition of the wreckage and establish the scatter area of the debris. The 132-metre long vessel then recovered the wreckage and debris from the seabed either as individual lifts or in baskets, in the process minimising any potential damage to the wreckage.

Steve Nairn, Well Ops' regional vice president of Europe and Africa, said: "The Well Enhancer normally operates in oil and gas fields in the North Sea carrying out intervention and well management tasks, so this was a very different job for her to complete, but it illustrated her flexibility.

"This project involved a large amount of ROV and dive work to identify the extent of the scatter area of the debris and then recover this to the surface. Our personnel



Well Ops' state-of-the-art Well Enhancer vessel

worked closely with MoD personnel to identify debris and establish the best way for pieces to be recovered without causing further damage. It was important to recover as much debris as possible to allow the MoD to carry out a full and accurate investigation into the cause of the incident. We were honoured to have been approached by the MoD to carry out this project."

This was the second time Well Ops had recovered a ditched aircraft for the MoD. In 2003, the company's other light well intervention vessel, the Seawell, completed a similar project in the Bristol Channel.

Launched in 2009, the Well Enhancer is a 132-metre long state-of-the-art vessel that offers wireline and coiled tubing well intervention services. The Well Enhancer and its sister vessel the Seawell are both fully-equipped to provide saturation diving operations, ably assisted by workclass and observation ROVs which are permanent on board fixtures.

The Well Enhancer features a 150 tonne active/passive heave multipurpose tower capable of deploying wireline, slickline and coiled tubing tool strings - Well Ops believes it is the first service company in the world to have deployed a coiled tubing tool string into a wellbore from a mono-hull vessel. The vessel also features a centralised control room, high volume kill pumps, tracked handling systems, and flare boom for future well testing operations.

flexlife Reaches Major Milestone

Subsea integrity and project management specialist flexlife has recently achieved a major milestone by overseeing the successful installation of a 6.7km pipeline bundle at Apache's Bacchus field development.

In 2009, Apache awarded flexlife a subsea engineering and pipeline operational support contract to oversee the management of Forties subsea projects and routine maintenance of subsea pipelines and subsea infrastructure.

Via Apache's main Bacchus contractor Subsea 7, flexlife managed the engineering, procurement, fabrication and installation of the pipeline bundle and a riser caisson. Integrated with towhead fabrications at each end (weighing 190-tonne and 106-tonne), the 6.7km, 40.5-inch diameter pipeline is one of the longest elements of North Sea infrastructure installed in recent years.

The Subsea 7 contracted bundle comprises two insulated 6-inch piggyback production lines, two insulated 4-inch

heating/produced water reinjection lines, a gas lift line, scale inhibitor and control system lines. The latter include electrical power and instrument cables, high and low pressure hydraulic lines, a chemical injection line and a methanol line. Subsea 7 fabricated the bundle at its Wester site facility in the north east of Scotland. After the towheads were integrated to the pipeline bundle, there was a 4-week programme of onshore tie-ins and testing followed by a site integration test programme to prove control system functionality.

A specialist fleet of vessels mobilised to Sinclair's Bay near Wick to undertake the bundle launch. Under control of site based Launchmasters, the launch commenced with two leading tugs being connected to the large 190-tonne Bacchus towhead via pre-installed wire rope pennants. When weather and tide conditions were suitable, the 6.7km long bundle assembly was pulled into the sea via a launchway specifically installed on the beach.

Arriving in the field, the bundle was laid down in a pre-surveyed parking area where final checks and weight control adjustments were made before the tow fleet was reconfigured by placing one of the two large tugs at each end for the final "off bottom" tow to the installation area. In off-bottom tow the bundle floats 4 to 5 metres above the seabed and is moved at between 1 and 2 1/2 knots to its final destination, being a pre-surveyed area with a target box at each end. The acoustic monitoring system was again deployed to ensure accurate positioning of both bundle ends.

Later this year, over a number of diver interventions, the bundle will be tied in to the platform and the three new wells and then tested. Tie in to the platform is achieved via the 149-tonne, 48" diameter riser caisson that the project safely installed in September 2010. The riser caisson houses riser pipelines, chemical injection and control tubing as well as control cables.



IHC EB J-Lay Tower en Route to First Job

IHC Engineering Business (IHC EB), a part of IHC Merwede group, has successfully delivered its largest project to date, a 2,000 tonne capacity J-Lay tower for client Saipem. After intensive design, manufacture and installation, assisted by Saipem teams, the system is en route to West Africa.

The rigid pipe lay system, one of the world's most versatile, was installed, commissioned, tested and trialled on the new build vessel, Saipem FDS2, in South Korea. The system can handle pipes from 4" to 36" in diameter and with the tower angle adjustable from 45 to 96 degrees can lay in deep and shallow water. An integral bulky item handling system and an adjustable stinger also contribute to the high functionality and versatility of the system.

The key design drivers throughout the development of the system were the efficiency of the pipe handling

operations to ensure low cycle time, weight optimisation and safety in all aspects of operation. IHC EB has successfully delivered an industry leading system that meets Saipem's challenging requirements as well as achieving DNV design approval.

IHC EB Sales and Marketing Director, Toby Bailey, commented on the completion of the large-scale project: "The delivery of the Saipem J-Lay tower is another significant step forward for IHC EB as it is our first turnkey deepwater pipe lay system. IHC EB has undergone major development and streamlining to cope with the demands of such a large-scale project, and is now positioned as one of a small number of companies around the world capable of delivering vessel systems of this size and complexity."

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